

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

December 10, 2002

5:30 PM

Chairman Sysyn called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Aldermen Sysyn, Osborne, Forest

ABSENT: Aldermen Guinta, Garrity

MESSRS: Alderman Gatsas, Alderman. Lopez, Tom Lolicata, Capt. Marc Lussier, Michael Kapos

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Michael Kapos, President and Owner of Michael's School of Hair Design and Esthetics, regarding parking for his students.
(Note: Mr. Kapos has requested this item reappear; was out of town during last meeting and had not received message that meeting was being held.)

Chairman Sysyn asked Mr. Kapos to address the Committee.

Mr. Kapos stated that he was currently renting parking spaces from WMUR for \$300.00 a month for up to 40 parking spaces for his employees and students and that the parking there will be ceasing soon and was looking for the city to assist him in a price break in renting spaces around his business. He stated his students have increased and they do not want to park far and he needs parking for them; that he has lost a lot of business because of the Civic Center and it was costing him money and that he was even looking to move his business to either Bedford or Hooksett. He stated that the city has an agreement with UNH in the Millyard and he was looking for the city to do a similar agreement so that his students would have parking.

Chairman Sysyn asked Mr. Kapos how the Civic Center affected him, was he opened at night.

Mr. Kapos stated that he was opened at night and that it wasn't convenient. He suggested that they put two hour meters on the side of his building or to change the spaces that are currently there to side way spaces. He was looking for a better price for his students as the meters that are located on Willow Street are not used during the day and the city could be making money if they were to rent them to him at a cheaper rate.

Mr. Lolicata stated that previously there were meters near your building and they were never utilized and that ten percent of your people have leases currently with the city and our paying the \$31.00 monthly cost and were happy. He stated that there were approximately 150 spaces in your area and that they would only have to walk about 500 feet and that we couldn't give him parking in front of his door, either way people are going to have to walk and that there was plenty of parking in that area. He further stated that if we did this for you we would then have to do it for all schools in the area and that the arrangement with UNH was part of their contract.

Chairman Sysyn asked Mr. Lolicata about the UNH lease with the city.

Mr. Lolicata stated that it was part on the Millyard project when UNH moved there and that we couldn't subsidize other schools based on that contract.

Alderman Forest stated that for your students and employees we are not going to be able to get them front door parking, that he understood what he was looking for, but that the students and employees had plenty of spaces to park within that area and didn't he have parking on-site.

Mr. Kapos stated he had a total of eight parking spaces with two of them being handicapped accessible. He was looking at the area around Willow Street, Depot Street and Canal Street as it was all empty parking spaces that weren't being used.

Alderman Forest stated that he knew Willow Street has empty spaces as he has driven by there on many occasions.

Mr. Kapos stated that's correct and that was why he was looking at those spaces. He further stated that WMUR will be throwing him out soon and even currently the sidewalks are not cleared and his students are walking on ice trying to make it to his building. He stated he wasn't happy where he was and that he was losing customers as there was no parking available.

Alderman Forest stated if we do it for you then we will have to do it for everyone else in the city.

Mr. Lolicata stated that the \$31.00 monthly figure calculates out to about \$1.25 per day, that it wasn't a bad price.

Mr. Kapos stated that these are students and they are already borrowing money from the Federal Government to attend school.

Mr. Lolicata stated that parking was set by ordinance and that we just can't use the UNH agreement to apply to this situation.

Mr. Kapos stated then what do I need to do, get a lawyer to work on this.

Alderman Forest stated no, that we just can't do this for you.

Mr. Kapos stated but it was for his students.

Alderman Osborne stated what about UNH what are they paying, are they paying a subsidiary or does the city receive the full amount.

Mr. Lolicata stated that UNH pays \$20.00 per semester for their students, that it was part of the agreement made when UNH moved into the Millyard.

Alderman Osborne stated so that don't pay the full amount.

Mr. Lolicata replied no.

Mr. Kapos stated that the \$20.00 per semester amounted to about \$7.00 per month and that is what he was looking for, that he does not want to pay the \$31.00 per month amount.

Mr. Lolicata stated that all other students in the downtown area are paying they full amount, they don't receive any discounts.

Mr. Kapos stated then do it for all students.

Alderman Osborne asked how long has UNH had this agreement.

Mr. Lolicata replied at least four years, but probably longer.

Chairman Sysyn stated that she had taken a course and had to pay for her own parking.

Mr. Lolicata stated that students at Springfield College, down in the Millyard, pay the going rate, that they don't get any special deals.

Mr. Kapos stated that during the day those spaces on Willow Street, Canal Street and Depot Street are empty and that they City can make money off of them if they were to reduce the rates. If the City sold him 30 spaces they would be making money as no one uses them currently. He further stated that his night students that park at WMUR have to park before 5:00 PM as they have installed a gate that goes up at 5:00 PM and that his classes don't start until 6:00 PM.

Alderman Osborne asked how much do you pay at WMUR?

Mr. Kapos replied \$300 month and that is because he does a lot of advertising with them.

Chairman Sysyn asked how he would feel if they were to lease the on street parking and that his students pay half and he pay the other half.

Mr. Kapos stated that would be about \$600.00 and that was too expensive that his students wouldn't be able to pay that amount.

Chairman Sysyn stated that he had a great deal with WMUR in paying only \$300.00 per month.

Mr. Kapos stated that was because he did approximately \$40,000 in advertising with them.

Chairman Sysyn stated that if we did that for you then we would have to do it for everyone else.

Alderman Osborne asked how many students have you increased?

Mr. Kapos replied that previously he had 50 and now he was up to 90.

Alderman Forest stated that it was his understanding that a parking lot was just built in the area where the building was torn down on Willow Street and did he check with those people.

Mr. Kapos replied that there was no parking lot just dirt there.

Alderman Osborne asked if he checked into the old Bradlees parking lot to see if he could park there.

Chairman Sysyn stated that it was owned by Allen Bradley and that they won't rent out to anyone; that they don't even rent out for the Civic Center events.

Alderman Forest stated I understand where you are coming from, but unfortunately there is nothing we can do so I make a motion to receive and file.

Mr. Kapos stated that he was looking to pay less then the \$31.00 monthly price as he currently pays \$300.00 to WMUR and that the City could give out stickers for the students to park there.

Alderman Osborne asked if he owns the building.

Mr. Kapos replied yes and that he was looking to move elsewhere and if he did then he would change the building to a coffee house and put in poker machines.

Alderman Osborne asked if he was going to pay rent where he was looking to move.

Mr. Kapos replied yes.

Alderman Osborne asked how many spaces were available on Willow Street and how would that be policed.

Mr. Lolicata stated that there were approximately 130 to 135 spaces and 90% of them were empty. As far as policing, they are meters and that he did not have any stickers to give out; that this would cost us him more money.

Alderman Osborne asked how long have these spaces been vacant.

Mr. Lolicata replied that most of the time they are vacant, but they were more for the Verizon Arena.

Alderman Lopez asked what about the Rubenstein Lot; that the committee could look at a waiver in lieu of a fee and make a deal with him.

Mr. Lolicata stated that Mr. Kapos doesn't want that, that it was already suggested for him to use that lot.

Mr. Kapos replied that was correct; that it was too far for his students and employees to walk.

Chairman Sysyn stated if we did that for Rubenstein then we would have to do it for the Hartnett Lot also.

Alderman Gatsas stated then change it so that there is student parking only in the Rubenstein Lot.

Capt. Lussier stated that parking in the Rubenstein Lot in the winter could be hard as that is where all the cars are towed during snow emergencies; that it could happen up to six times a year, but the cars are parked there overnight and are not claimed until the next day or later.

Alderman Osborne asked how many other students would be affected.

Mr. Lolicata stated that all other students are paying except for those that attend UNH in the Millyard.

Alderman Gatsas stated that Mr. Kapos already said it was too far and he wasn't interested.

Alderman Osborne stated what hours was he looking at.

Mr. Kapos replied he was opened Tuesday through Saturday and that he was opened 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and that Saturday was not a problem as parking was free for that day; that he would need some at night.

Alderman Osborne asked what time would they be gone.

Mr. Kapos replied 4:00 PM.

Alderman Forest stated maybe we could look at making it a student zone during the day and ask legal counsel to look into it.

Mr. Lolicata stated it would be costing him something in order to do that, especially if they went to stickers.

Alderman Osborne stated that unfortunately they were in a catch 22 situation and that if they did it for him then they would have to do it for everyone else as others were already paying the full price.

Chairman Sysyn stated that if the students could pay half and you pay the other half it would assist them.

Mr. Kapos stated that he had 80 to 100 students and that would be a lot of money he was paying out.

Capt. Lussier stated that they could rotate the spaces and maybe share them.

Alderman Osborne stated that unfortunately there was nothing that they could do to assist him.

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne, it was voted to receive and file this item. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Sysyn addressed item 4 of the agenda:

Chairman Sysyn advises that the Traffic Department has submitted an agenda, which needs to be addressed as follows:

NO PARKING:

ON HARRIMAN ST. WEST SIDE, FROM GLENWOOD AVE. TO A POINT
95 FEET NORTH
ALDERMAN SMITH

ON GREENVIEW DR. NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES, FROM FRONT ST.
(RTE 3A) TO A POINT 110 FEET EAST
ALDERMAN FOREST

ON GREENVIEW DR. NORTH SIDE, 45 FEET EAST AND WEST OF
DRIVEWAY AT BUILDING # 55
ALDERMAN FOREST

ON HANOVER ST. NORTH SIDE, FROM BEAVER ST. TO A POINT 90 FEET
WESTERLY
ALDERMAN PINARD

ON ELM ST. EAST SIDE, FROM BLODGET ST. TO A POINT 60 FEET
NORTH
ALDERMAN GUINTA

ON ELM ST. EAST SIDE, FROM PENNACOOK ST. TO A POINT 70 FEET
SOUTH
ALDERMAN GUINTA

NO PARKING LOADING ZONE (8AM-4PM MON-FRI):

ON PINE ST. EAST SIDE, FROM A POINT 250 FEET NORTH OF SALMONT
ST. TO A POINT 20 FEET NORTH
ALDERMAN GUINTA

RESCIND NO PARKING LOADING ZONE:

ON PINE ST. EAST SIDE, FROM A POINT 250 FEET NORTH OF SALMON ST. TO A POINT 20 FEET NORTH (ORD. # 8250)
ALDERMAN GUINTA

RESCIND PARKING FOR POLICE VEHICLES ONLY:

ON CEDAR ST. SOUTH SIDE, FROM UNION ST. TO A POINT 70 FEET EAST (ORD. #8189)

PARKING 1 HOUR:

ON ELM ST. EAST SIDE, FROM A POINT 60 FEET NORTH OF BLODGET ST. TO A POINT 70 FEET SOUTH OF PENNACOOK ST.
ALDERMAN GUINTA

PARKING ½ HOUR (8AM-6PM MON-SAT):

ON UNION ST. WEST SIDE, FROM PLUMMER ST. TO A POINT 125 FEET NORTH
ALDERMAN GUINTA

RESCIND PARKING 30 MINUTES (ORD. 6235):

ON UNION ST. WEST SIDE, FROM PLUMMER ST. TO A POINT 65 FEET NORTH
ALDERMAN GUINTA

STOP SIGN:

ON CUMBERLAND ST. AT MONITOR ST. NWC 3-WAY STOP
ALDERMAN THIBAUT

On motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to accept the Traffic Agenda less the items removed by Alderman Forest on behalf of Alderman Gatsas.

Chairman Sysyn asked Alderman Gatsas to speak on the items he was present for.

NO PARKING

ON KENNARD RD. NORTH SIDE, FROM SMYTH RD. TO A POINT 460 FEET EAST
ALDERMAN GATSAS

RESCIND NO PARKING (ORD. #8463):

ON KENNARD RD. NORTH SIDE, FROM LINDAHL ST. TO CHALET COURT
ALDERMAN GATSAS

Alderman Gatsas stated that he wasn't able to participate last time and he wasn't sure if there was a safety issue and wanted to find out what was happening as his name was appearing here and he didn't request it.

Mr. Lolicata stated that his name appears because it is in his ward and that he was responsible for bringing it in after what happened at the last meeting.

Capt. Lussier stated that they were eliminating the no parking except where the crest of the hill was and it was somewhat of a blind spot; that one person complained and then the others came in with a petition last month to have it rescinded so that they can park there again.

Mr. Lolicata stated he and Capt. Lussier visited the site and he wanted to rescind the no parking, but was keeping the no parking only up to the hill; that he wanted to make sure that the hill was covered in the no parking.

Alderman Osborne asked Alderman Gatsas what he wanted as it was his ward.

Alderman Gatsas stated he wanted to know if there was a safety issue up there.

Mr. Lolicata stated that people came in at the last meeting to have the no parking rescinded so that they could park on the street, but the street is less than 30 feet wide and he wanted to make sure that the hill was covered; that by law he could put up on parking on both sides of the street.

Alderman Gatsas asked where Chalet Court was.

Mr. Lolicata stated that it was the entrance to McIntyre; that they were rescinding the other side.

Capt Lussier stated that there was no history of accidents at that site.

Alderman Gatsas stated he was looking for someone to say that there were not safety issues in that area.

Capt. Lussier stated its been that way forever; that if there were no parking then we would be leaving it wide open and then the traffic would go even faster in that area; that no one that lives in the area is complaining, only the guy that lives down the street.

Alderman Gatsas stated he travels that street on a regular basis and it is a very dangerous situation.

Mr. Lolicata stated that he wanted to make sure that the hill was covered; that no parking would be allowed and that he did measure it and it was 460 feet.

Alderman Osborne stated where the street is not that wide then there should only be parking on one side.

Mr. Lolicata stated this is what the people wanted last time they were here and that he only wanted the hill covered. They could park on the south side.

Alderman Gatsas asked if he was referring to the sidewalk side.

Mr. Lolicata replied yes.

Alderman Gatsas stated that there was never ever any parking on the side walk side.

Capt. Lussier suggested that he and Mr. Lolicata take a look at it again and report back to the committee at a later date.

TABLED ITEM

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Discussion regarding Parking Permit Fee increase.
(Tabled 07/23/02)

Alderman Osborne stated that we had already taken care of this.

Chairman Sysyn stated last month we voted on the garages but didn't vote on the lots or on street parking.

On motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Forest it was voted to receive and file this item. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman Osborne, duly seconded by Alderman Forest, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest

Clerk of Committee